(e) The Grain Purchase Tahsildar decides the percentage of shrinkage to be collected according to the wetness of the paddy.

BURMA RICE—IMPORTATION OF

40. **Dr. S. S. Rao** *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether any steps have been taken for adequate supply of Burma rice being imported into the State;

(b) if so, when could we possibly expect to have the first quota and what will be the quantity?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(a) & (b) The import of Burma rice into India and its distribution will be under the control of the India Government. When they secure supplies of Burma rice Cochin will also get its share according to the Central Scheme of distribution. But nothing definite can now be said as to when these supplies will become available to the State.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Lock-out in the Alliance Industries, Trippunittura

Mr. President: I have received three notices of motion to adjourn the business of this House. The first comes from Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan who wishes to discuss an urgent matter of public importance namely, "the failure of the Government to introduce a Bill for amending the Tenancy Act". I hardly think that it is necessary for the Hon'ble Member to move an adjournment on this subject because I can now say exactly what the position is and there is nothing more to be said. The Bill has been drafted and it is nearly ready for introduction and I hope that it will be introduced during this Session of the House.

Then Mr. Velayudhan who wishes to discuss an urgent matter of public importance to will the banning of "Hindu Kavadi Procession" through the Kunnamkulam Bazaar. I am afraid—must rule this as out of order. The order complained against was a judicial order and the parties have legal remedies if they are not satisfied with it. I cannot allow the motion in public interest.

Mr. Dewer gives notice of a motion for adjournment to discuss a matter of urgent public importance to wit the illegal lock out in the "Alliance Industries", Trippunittura and the failure of the Government to take proper action against the management. I would ask Hon'ble Member to show how this is a specific matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Recently an order has been passed by the Government under the Defence of India Rules asking the workers and employers to give notice of 14 days before a lock-out or a strike was declared. The Management of the Alliance Industries wanted a wage cut which the workers were not prepared to accept. The management on the 28th of last month wanted the workers to give an undertaking that they will be prepared to work at a reduced wage and because they did not consent and because they did not accept the wage cut, the management kept them out. Under the Trade Disputes Act a lock-out means the keeping out of a section of the workers or the entire workers of an undertaking with a view to coerce the workers to a certain agreement. Here the management wanted to coerce the workers to agree to an unreasonable wage cut by a lock-out and the lock-out is being continued. Now the Government under the recent order had to take action against the management of the Alliance Industries and he ought to have been under arrest many days before today; because he has committed an offence by not giving notice of 14 days to the Government. I had no time for sending a resolution on this subject giving the required notice. So far as I know no action has been taken against the management. The management is still continuing the lock-out. In spite of the conciliatory methods which the Labour Commissioner tried the management has not come to terms and still they are keeping the workers out with a view to coerce the workers to the wage cut. When the offender is a labourer our Government promptly takes action against him. Here the offender is an employer and the Government have not moved their small fingers to book him. When a rule is passed it must be applicable to both the parties, *i.e.*, the employer as well as employee. This attitude of the Government would only encourage other employers to defy the orders of the Government and victimise the workers without let or hindrance. I do not want to allow such things and hence I have given notice of this adjournment motion of a very serious and urgent public importance. It is urgent because the workers are suffering, important because the law of the land has been flouted.

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